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Meaningful news for community-minded readers "on the west side"
News digest weekly on Fridays (print & online)
by Brookline Publishing House Inc

West Shore Voice News

4 pages this issue

Additional breaking news & PDF of this week's issue:
www.westshorevoiceneews.com

Week #316 of the Voice

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Trudeau: high-level street smarts [Editorial]	2	WSV ISSN 2368-9374
Human rights commission needed in BC, says Horgan ...	2	Vol.2 No.15
New site in mind for Sooke Library (not in town centre)	2	SVN ISSN 31925-2722
"Canada must respond to Trump's refugee ban": Garrison ...	3	Vol.7 No.4
Sooke Food CHI joins CRD Agriculture task force	4	

Featuring news of the west side of Vancouver Island

Friday, February 10, 2017 SOOKE & the WEST SHORE, BC

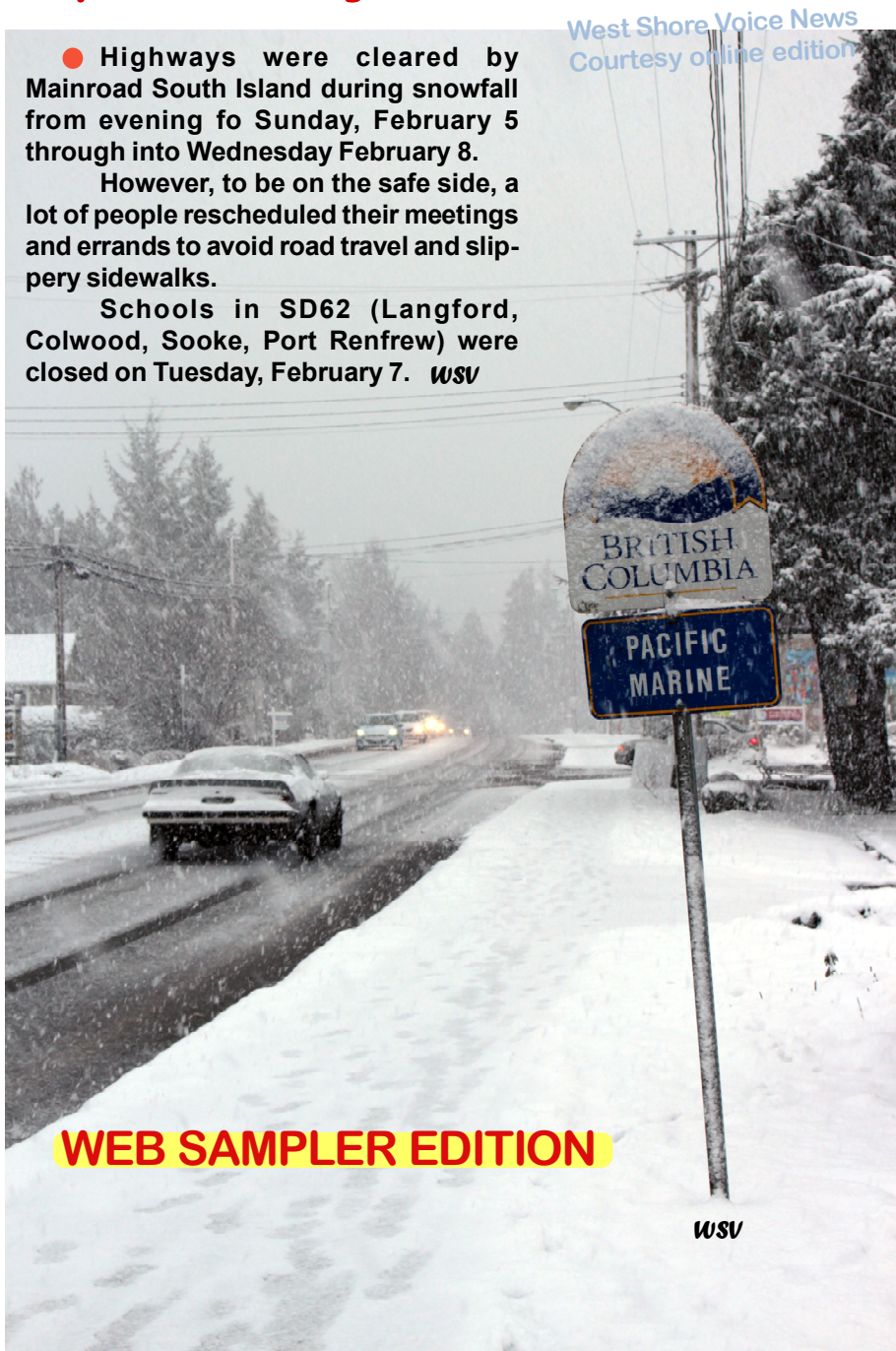
Heavier-than-usual snowfall impacts busy schedules

West Shore Voice News

Highways were cleared by Mainroad South Island during snowfall from evening of Sunday, February 5 through into Wednesday February 8.

However, to be on the safe side, a lot of people rescheduled their meetings and errands to avoid road travel and slippery sidewalks.

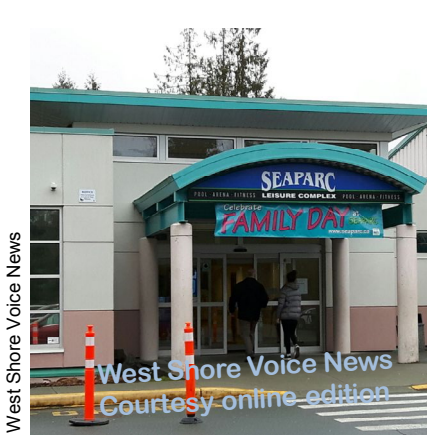
Schools in SD62 (Langford, Colwood, Sooke, Port Renfrew) were closed on Tuesday, February 7. WSV



West Shore Voice News Courtesy online edition

Free admission on BC Family Day at SEAPARC in Sooke

West Shore Voice News



West Shore Voice News Courtesy online edition

Happy Family Day weekend! The Stone Pipe Grill

New Breakfast Menu Starting February 14 7:30-11 am

2038 Otter Point Rd (at Sooke Rd)
250-642-0566

www.stonepipegrill.com

<< SEAPARC Leisure Complex in Sooke is gearing up for Family Day.

By next year there could be a new Sooke Library on the SEAPARC grounds. See news item page 2.

The 5th BC Family Day is coming up this Monday, February 13. It's a statutory holiday, so everyone can get out and have some fun.

In Sooke at SEAPARC Leisure Complex there will be free admission all day. The swimming pool will be open 12-6pm. The arena will be open for a Family Fun Skate 12-3pm, followed by Family & Friends Hockey 3:15-5pm. www.seaparc.ca

In Colwood at the Juan de Fuca Rec Centre Family Day activities on Monday February 13 feature a free skate 1-2:30 pm (with free skate rentals), free swim 1 to 4:30 pm, and for youth under age 16 there's free golf all day (when accompanied by a paying adult). www.westshorecreation.ca WSV

"Library books in search of readers"

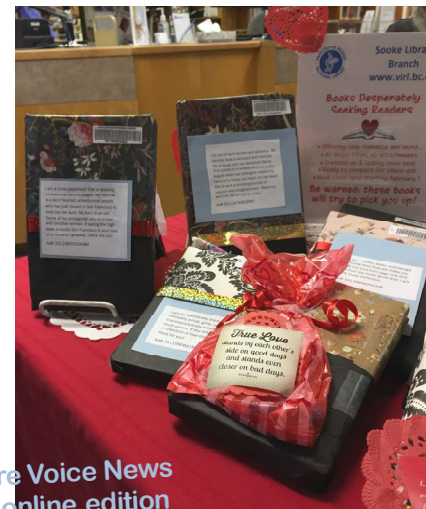
West Shore Voice News

"We have some special books at the library that are desperately seeking readers," says Sooke & Port Renfrew Library Manager Adrienne Wass. "These library books are full of charm and looking for readers to turn their pages."

In the weeks leading up to Valentine's Day, the Vancouver Island Regional Library Sooke Branch has been offering book lovers beautifully presented romance novels and love stories that are doing their best to 'pick-up' readers.

"Customers can expect to be courted as these mysterious books compete for their library cards. There may even be chocolate," says Wass.

Each book features a description that is meant to attract and intrigue – without ever revealing the author or title. WSV



Special display of books at Sooke Library for the Valentine's season.

Sustainable northern societies

West Shore Voice News

A visit to further a bond with northern countries is planned for February 19 to 23. Governor General of Canada David Johnston and Mrs Sharon Johnston will conduct a state visit to Sweden. King Carl XVI Gustaf and Queen Silvia will host the Johnstons during the visit that will focus on building innovative, sustainable societies that benefit everyone.

"Canada and Sweden have a great deal in common as Northern countries that are firmly committed to human rights, the environment, free trade, and the well-being and prosperity of their citizens," says Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. "This visit by the

Governor General of Canada will help further strengthen our social and commercial ties, and reaffirm our warm friendship."

Canada and Sweden collaborate on Northern issues within the Arctic Council, including sustainable development and environmental protection. There is significant trade and investment flow between the two countries, with close cooperation in innovation, science and technology.

"Sweden is one of Canada's top priority countries for investment as it is home to a number of large, technologically sophisticated, multi-national companies and dynamic and innovative small-to-medium sized enterprises," it was stated in a Prime Minister's office release on February 10. WSV



ARCTIC COUNCIL



West Shore Voice News

Governor General David Johnston & Mrs Johnston with Prince William: Official Welcome for the Duke & Duchess of Cambridge at the BC Legislature, Sept 24, 2016.

A snowy Monday February 6 in Sooke...as the day wore on and snowfall didn't let up, traffic diminished on West Coast Road (Hwy 14) and retail activity was lean.

WEB SAMPLER EDITION

Sunday, February 5 ~ SOOKE

Well, it's not a wild windy storm out there tonight. Just a gentle snowfall, but steady. However, with temperatures hovering around zero, that makes for slippery or uncertain road conditions in the dark.

Good to see more drivers taking the slow but steady approach for driving on Hwy 14 this evening. It seems to be sinking in that just a few more minutes to get there is not so bad. Mainroad South Island has done a good job of clearing one lane for each side on most of the 4-lane portion, and obviously made tracks on the 2-lane portion.



Speed limits are for ideal driving conditions.

Winter driving conditions are NOT ideal.

Slow down & drive safely.

West Shore Voice News

Three or four days of nearly continuous snowfall this week on the west side of Vancouver Island was unusual. Cold temperatures had met up with warm moisture off the Pacific Ocean, and that's what we got. Islanders got a chance to practice their safe driving skills. This image by Mainroad South Island posted by West Shore Voice News on Facebook with a bit of weather news (see above) got a lot of traction. In challenging road conditions, more people are slowing down and hoping their fellow motorists do the same.

WEB SAMPLER EDITION

WSV

EDITORIAL

VIEWES & INSIGHTS FROM THE WEST COAST

WEST SHORE VOICE

Trudeau: high-level street smarts

Hurrah for celebrity power. The fact that Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau generates a bit of rock-star pizzazz in his wake can only be good news for Canada's economic and nation-state fate as he approaches his first direct interface with TV-celebrity-turned US President Donald J Trump in Washington, DC on Monday, February 13.



Veronique Gagnon

Mary P Brooke BSc, Cert PR Editor & Publisher West Shore Voice News

We lucky Canadians get a favourable combo. Along with the star quality that will very likely have political value in Trump's eyes, Trudeau has a proficient level of emotional intelligence that is actually well-suited to tromping around with Trump. Whatever Trudeau's political opponents here at home may think of him, on the world stage Trudeau's ability to shine without pomp can only be good news for his first meeting with Trump at the White House. No ruffled feathers, smooth sailing.

And for everyone in Canada who realizes that the well-being of the Canadian economy depends in large part on good trade relations with the USA, we can be further heartened that a preparatory team was sent to Washington ahead of Trudeau this past week. Foreign Affairs Minister Chrystia Freeland stood Canada's ground during a two-day visit, including a meeting with Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and a handshake with House of Representatives Speaker Paul Ryan. Ahead of Freeland's Tuesday arrival, Canada's Defence Minister Harjit Sajjan had spent a day in discussions with his counterpart. Finance Minister Bill Morneau arrived Wednesday to stage the stage for finance talks.

With these foundation-building strategies in place, Canada has a good fighting chance for a positive outcome from the February 13 meeting. Setting Canada's well-being in good stead for the next four years hinges in large part on how the Trudeau-Trump event goes on Monday. No pressure.

And oh yeah, on the issue of electoral reform being recently dropped as a current priority by Trudeau. Maybe, just maybe, he took a look at the overall landscape during Trump's first week in office and decided that a huge change to the electoral reform system in Canada could wait for another election cycle. In terms of overall national management, there are now some bigger fish to fry.

BC NEWS

West Shore Voice News

@VanclislandVOICE

Online textbooks shift style & cost of education

The BC Government is promoting its Open Textbook Program initiative, claiming that students at UBC alone have saved over \$1 million, by providing "flexible and affordable access to higher education resources".



"The BC government continues to put students first by reducing student costs and making post-secondary education more accessible with open textbooks," says Advanced Education Minister Andrew Wilkinson who visited the UBC campus on February 10. "The benefits of open textbooks will only continue to grow as more faculty and institutions adopt these open educational resources."

Since the launch of the Open Textbook Project in 2012, it is estimated that over 30,000 students in BC have saved nearly \$3.7 million. Open textbooks are available online using an open license, making digital versions free for use by students and faculty. Approximately 267 faculty members at 23 public post-secondary institutions are currently participating in the project.

In addition to helping alleviate financial stress for students, access to online textbooks is purported to often improve the quality of course content. Instructors may customize materials for their course including localized content and modifications based on current research.

Through open textbooks, students in BC have access to more than 170 resources available in a range of popular first- and second-year areas such as math, chemistry and business, skills and technical subjects such as trades foundation courses, healthcare and adult upgrading. Some of the trades books are also available for download as free audiobooks, which assists students who face barriers to education.

The Open Textbook Project is the first government-sponsored initiative of its kind in Canada. The BC government says the program has now been replicated by other provinces including Alberta and Manitoba. BC is also working collaboratively with other jurisdictions in the United States and abroad to support the creation and use of open educational resources.

Government kick-started the Open Textbook Project with BCCampus in 2012 by providing \$1 million in funding for open textbooks in the most highly enrolled first- and second-year academic subjects. In 2013, government committed an additional \$1 million to develop 20 open textbooks in skills training and technical programs. No financial impact is stated regarding how shifting some of the student learning process to online engagement is saving on faculty or instructor salaries, or whether some of the classroom interaction that is so integral to higher learning is either enhanced or lost. Info: https://open.bccampus.ca

BC Throne Speech

BC Lieutenant Governor Judith Guichon will open the sixth session of the 40th Parliament of British Columbia on Tuesday, February 14, reading the government-composed speech from the throne at 2 pm. Live broadcast from 1:15 pm: www.ThroneSpeechBC.ca



West Shore Voice News

BC Lt Gov Judith Guichon

Seems the District of Sooke hasn't wanted to part with land for no remuneration. They purchased about 5 acres in the heart of Sooke last year, of which 1 acre was being set aside for VIRL to build a new 10,000 sq.ft. library.

Now SEAPARC is suddenly in the game. Construction could begin as early as this spring on the old septic field area at the front of the SEAPARC property at 2168 Phillips Road, says SEAPARC Chair Mike Hicks.

More next week.



Ride the WSV wave!

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Human rights commission needed in BC, says Horgan

West Shore Voice News

West Shore Voice News Courtesy online edition

The next BC Provincial Election is on the horizon (May 9, 2017). BC NDP Leader John Horgan will run again in his home riding of Langford-Juan de Fuca.



BC NDP

"With hate speech incidents rising in BC on the heels of Donald Trump's executive order against Muslim travellers, it is time to re-establish the BC Human Rights Commission, says BC New Democrat (NDP) Leader John Horgan.

"BC is currently the only province in Canada without a Human Rights Commission - because it was scrapped by the BC Liberal government in 2002 when Christy Clark was a cabinet minister," said Horgan.

"At a time when hateful and racist flyers are being delivered to our friends and neighbours, and people are advocating for violence against specific people and communities, we have to do everything we can to fight against the bullying and oppression," said Horgan.

"The recent tragedy in the Quebec City mosque brought home to many the need for action against all forms of discrimination," he said in a news release this week.

The NDP release says that a Human Rights Commission would be a powerful force against inequality that can "enforce and reinforce the inclusivity, diversity, and respect that are at the heart of our values".

Pointing to a troubling trend of hate speech and actions as well as the damaging impacts these are having on individuals and communities, Horgan said government has to do its part to combat abuses and help British Columbians know and exercise their rights.

"In the face of any signs of hatred and intolerance in our communities, people want action and advocacy," said Horgan. "There's too much at stake to just hope for the best."

Regional

@WestShoreVOICE

New site in mind for Sooke Library

The Vancouver Island Regional Library (VIRL) board has for several years now had a new library for Sooke among their top priorities.

Thing is, they ask of the various communities in their region to provide land at no cost. then VIRL builds a library facility at their own cost. That's their business model.

Pilgrim Coffee House on Facebook. Serving Drumroaster Coffee. PILGRIM COFFEE HOUSE 778-265-5577 105-1910 Sooke Rd in Colwood Open 7 days a week

Canada must respond to Trump's refugee ban

Opinion-Editorial by Randall Garrison, MP

Like many of you, I am very concerned for the safety and wellbeing of refugees, after President Trump signed executive orders on Friday, January 28, banning entry (for 120 days) to the US from seven majority-Muslim countries. Syria is one of the countries on the list, meaning that the US will no longer accept refugees from that country, despite the gravity of the situation that has already caused over four million Syrians to seek asylum. Many more people are internally displaced or have fled but have not been registered as asylum-seekers by the UN. Violence continues to send large numbers of Syrians into exile.



Randall Garrison, MP Esquimalt-Saanich-Sooke

Trump's ban (which two courts overturned this week, but which Trump plans to replace with another executive order next week) victimizes thousands of asylum seekers.

Canadians are committed to their role as global citizens and defenders of human rights, and we must not tolerate this xenophobic ban from our closest neighbour. My New Democrat colleagues and I believe that as elected representatives, it is our duty to respond to these extraordinary events. To this end, my colleague MP Jenny Kwan, NDP Critic for Immigration, Citizenship, and Refugees, requested that an Emergency Debate be held in the House of Commons.

On January 31, during the Emergency Debate, New Democrats outlined four measures that Canada could take to respond to the US refugee ban.

The federal government could lift the 1,000 application cap on privately sponsored refugees. In Esquimalt-Saanich-Sooke, and across the country, groups and individuals have come forward to privately sponsor refugees. Acting in solidarity and global goodwill, these groups have often been frustrated by either the cap or lengthy wait times. In order to address the increase in need caused by the Trump's ban, Canada should immediately lift this cap, allowing more Canadian citizens to choose to sponsor refugees.

Canada currently has an agreement called the Safe Third Country Agreement, meaning that we cannot accept refugees who have come via the US. Trump's ban makes this problematic, as the US is no longer an option for many refugees. Subsequently, this agreement must be suspended.

Canada could also fast-track the applications of refugees whose applications were already approved in the US before the ban shut them out. Many stories have surfaced of individuals and families who had recently been approved as refugees by the US and had prepared for travel, often selling off all of their assets or taking irreversible steps that will make their lives even more dangerous, when the ban came into effect and they shut out of the US.

We can also work with the global community to ensure that the short fall in refugee resettlement is met.

I am particularly worried about LGBTQ refugees. Last year, the Liberals said that LGBTQ refugees would be a priority, but they have done exactly nothing. Now Trump's ban has placed LGBTQ refugees from seven Muslim countries at extreme risk. In all seven of these countries, being gay means living in fear of being put to death. In both the Emergency Debate and during Question Period, I asked the Minister of Immigration if he will take immediate action to facilitate asylum in Canada for LGBTQ refugees from the seven countries who are now excluded from the United States, and who risk death if sent home. I have yet to receive an answer.

In fact, the Liberals' response during the Emergency Debate on immigration and refugees was disappointing. Despite having tweeted about welcoming refugees to Canada in the wake of Trump's ban, the Prime Minister is unwilling to take any action to that effect.

My New Democrat colleagues and I will continue to advocate for Canada to do the right thing and step in to help those affected by Trump's ban.

Restoration continues at the Sheringham Lighthouse

West Shore Voice News

Winter hours allow daily public access to the at the Sheringham Point Lighthouse grounds from 9 am to 4 pm.

After restoration, the lighthouse itself may be open on special days such as "open houses" or for booked tours. But for safety reasons, there are presently no plans to keep it open all the time for safety reasons.

Current restoration activity continues this winter. Large machines are necessary for clearing around the area -- for both a new solar array and trenching for the myriad of cables to the electrical shed.

www.sheringhamlighthouse.org WSV



Sheringham Point Lighthouse visits will offer amazing ocean views.

View from the lighthouse tower to the fence protecting the heritage precinct of the site. >> Pathway to the lighthouse from the parkland will remain as originally designed. The original posts will remain and will be connected by large format rope as was in the original application by the former lightkeepers.



WEB SAMPLER EDITION

RRSP & TFSA a good investment mix

West Shore Voice News

It's RRSP season, and the TD Canada Trust branch in Sooke is happy to help anyone start or revise their retirement savings through RRSPs and TFSAs. This year's deadline is Mar 1.

The Tax-Free Savings Account (TFSA) is not specifically designed as a retirement savings account (savings can be for anything you like), but its flexibility makes for an excellent complement to a Registered Retirement Savings Plan (RRSP).

"If you have already maximized your RRSP contributions, then a TFSA is another option for you to save more money and get the benefits of tax-free growth and withdrawals," says Erich Falk, branch manager, at TD Canada Trust Sooke.

"There is no maximum age limit on a TFSA (but you must be at least 18 years of age to open one). You can continue contributing to your TFSA and enjoy tax-free growth and withdrawals throughout your retirement," says Falk.

Ideally, your retirement plan would include both an RRSP and a TFSA. If you're just getting started, your RRSP contribution can be even as low as \$25 per month. It really adds up. Contributions to RRSP's are tax deductible, whereas TFSA contributions are not tax deductible (but can be withdrawn at any time). Funds in both RRSPs and TFSAs can be carried forward to future tax years.

The TD Canada Trust Sooke branch at 6770 Sooke Road is open 7 days a week. Staff at the branch are available to do a free no obligation review of your retirement investment plan. Info: 250-642-1230.

Erich Falk started this month as the new manager at TD Sooke. Outgoing manager Mark Doberstein has relocated to a larger TD branch in Nanaimo.

TD It's RRSP Season

This year's RRSP deadline is March 1st.

Open 7 days a week in Sooke town center.

Start with as little as \$25.

RRSP vs TFSA? Our advisors are here to help you plan for tomorrow & beyond.

TD Bank Sooke Branch
6670 Sooke Rd | 250-642-1230

Watch your speed on the west side

West Shore Voice News

Traffic enforcement by Sooke RCMP is being stepped up on the west side of Sooke.

"Numerous violation tickets for speeding on Grant Rd have been issued by Sooke officers and members of the Integrated Road Safety Unit in the past month," says Sooke RCMP Detachment Commander S/Sgt Jeff McArthur. The speed limit on Grant Rd is 40 km/h.

"Increased enforcement on Grant Road, Otter Point Road, and Sooke and West Coast Road is to be expected," he adds. "Otter Point Road from near Wadams Way, to Sooke Road will see increased enforcement activity. This is a 30 km/h zone," says S/Sgt McArthur.

He explains that the intersection of Grant Road and Otter Point Road is partially blind and considered to be in need of enforcement action.



Yellow line on the map shows the 30 km/h zone on Otter Point Road in Sooke -- from near Wadams Way over to Sooke Road. [District of Sooke base map from RCMP]

Traffic enforcement in Sooke is done in consideration of the accident statistics, analysis of risk, and public input. We regularly receive calls from residents of Grant Road complaining about speed," says S/Sgt McArthur.

Of note, on January 22, a resident advised that his dog was run over and killed that morning, by a vehicle in the 7000-block of Grant Road. The complainant advised that he was walking his dog at roadside on a leash at the time this happened. He requested increased speed enforcement. No details were gathered on the motorist who allegedly killed the dog, and therefore, that investigation has been concluded, says RCMP.

Sooke RCMP: case load peaked in 2016

West Shore Voice News

Sooke RCMP released a report this week on various trends in their policing area (District of Sooke as well as into East Sooke and up to Port Renfrew).

Total files handled in 2016 tallied at a 10-year peak of 6,015. The next highest tally was in 2008 at 5,994. The lowest tallies were during 2010-2012 (5,309, 5,065, and 5,315 respectively).

Notes from Detachment Commander S/Sgt Jeff McArthur included details on domestic violence (23 charges in 2016 related to domestic violence were forwarded to Crown Counsel, with 19 being approved), traffic enforcement (done in consideration of accident statistics, analysis of risk, and public input), opiate deaths (5 in the



past 3 years), and drug trafficking (five charges for a drug bust on Oct 31, 2016 have recently been approved against Steven Cody Wilson regarding drugs in a residence at 6700-block Eustace Rd; court appearance set for Feb 23 in Victoria).

West Shore Voice News
Courtesy online edition

Photos by: Sheringham Point Lighthouse Preservation Society

Labels by West Shore Voice News

West Shore Voice News

WHAT'S GOING ON Next ad deadline is Feb 15 for Feb 17 WSV West Shore Voice News

BC Family Day. Mon Feb 13. Statutory holiday.
Prime Minister Trudeau meeting with US President Trump in Washington, DC. Mon Feb 13. TV news coverage starts 3am PST (6 am Eastern).
BC Family Day at SEAPARC. Mon Feb 13. Free admission all day. Pool open 12-6pm, Family Fun Skate 12-3pm, Family & Friends Hockey 3:15-5pm. www.seaparc.ca
Family Day at JdF Rec Mon Feb 13 regular admission. Free skate 1-2:30 pm, Free Swim 1 to 4:30 pm, free golf all day. www.westshorerecreation.ca
Valentine's Day. Tues Feb 14. [West Shore Voice News](http://www.westshorevoicenews.com)
BC Throne Speech. Tues Feb 14. 2 pm
SD62 Education Committee of the Whole. Tues Feb 14. Sooke Elementary, 7pm www.sd62.bc.ca
District of Sooke Regular Council Meeting. Tues Feb 14. Council chambers, 7pm www.sooke.ca

Awareness Film Night. Wed Feb 15. Vaxxed film. EMCS, 7 pm. www.awarenessfilmmight.ca
EMCS Students vs Staff Hockey Game. Fri Feb 17 8:35 am at SEAPARC. www.emcs.web.sd62.bc.ca
Tsukino Con cosplay convention. Fri Feb 17 to Sun Feb 19 at UVic. \$30 student / \$35 adult. www.tsukinocon.com
Seedy Saturday Victoria. Sat Feb 18. 10 am to 4 pm. Victoria Conference Centre. \$7 cash at door, under 16 free.
Blood Donor Clinic Mon Feb 20. Church of the Advent, 510 Mount View, Colwood. 12-7pm. www.blood.ca
First Aid: strains, sprains & breaks. Tues Feb 21. 7pm, Metchosin Fire Dept, 4440 Happy Valley Rd. Free session.
Chosin Chatters Toastmasters open house Tues Feb 21. 7-8:30pm, Metchosin Community House, 4430 Happy Valley Rd.
Sooke Community Arts Council. Monthly members meeting Tues Feb 21, 7pm, Sooke Harbour House.
Pink Shirt Day. Wed Feb 22 [West Shore Voice News](http://www.westshorevoicenews.com)
Approaches to Managing Youth Anxiety. Wed Feb 22. Free session for parents. 7 to 9pm, Royal Bay school. www.forcesociety.com/intheknow
Edward Milne Community School Open House. Thurs Feb 23 6:30-8:30 pm. www.emcs.web.sd62.bc.ca
SD62 Non-Instructional Day. Fri Feb 24.
Seedy Saturday Sooke. Sat Feb 25. 10 am to 3 pm, Sooke Community Hall. www.sookefoodchi.ca
District of Sooke Regular Council Meeting. Mon Feb 27. council chambers, 7pm www.sooke.ca
Jon Brooks in Concert. Sat Mar 4. 8pm at Holy Trinity, 1962 Murray Rd. Tx \$15 at Shoppers Drug Mart Sooke, \$20 at the door. www.sookefolkmusicociety.com

The Sooke Region Chamber of Commerce is asking for nominations from the general public

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WEB SAMPLER EDITION

'Setting Our Table' discussed at Sooke Food CHI AGM

West Shore Voice News

● The 10th annual Sooke Region Food CHI AGM was held on Thursday evening, February 9. About 50 people attended at St Rose of Lima Church to hear about the 10-point Capital Regional District's (CRD) regional food and agriculture strategy. The Strategy aims to enhance awareness of local agricultural issues and opportunities toward increasing local food production. [West Shore Voice News](http://www.westshorevoicenews.com)
 Speakers that evening were Juan de Fuca Electoral Area Director Mike Hicks, Sooke Mayor Maja Tait, and agrologist Derek Masselink. Emcee was former District of Sooke planner Gerard LeBlanc.

CRD created their agricultural task force with 14 members from across the CRD (13 municipalities plus Juan de Fuca area). But now there are 15 members, as Sooke Food CHI will now also send a rep. CRD approved a motion on February 8 to include a Sooke Food CHI rep (motion presented by Tait and Hicks).

The 50-page **Setting Our Table** PDF is available for download: www.crd.bc.ca/docs/default-source/regional-planning-pdf/food-agriculture/draft-regional-food-agriculture-strategy-web.pdf **WSV**

Setting Our Table: CRD Food & Agriculture Strategy (2016)



Bring your own shovel

West Shore Voice News

● After heavy snowfall for several days in a row this past week, and then with rain after that, the District of Sooke issued an advisory on February 8 that sandbag supplies would be available to local residents. [West Shore Voice News](http://www.westshorevoicenews.com)

Sand and bags were made available this week at the District of Sooke Public Works Yard at 2060 Kaltasin Rd. But one's own elbow grease was required, as the bags and sand were available strictly BYO shovel.

The Public Works Yard is open Mon-Fri, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. For access to sandbag supplies on Saturday and Sunday (Feb 11 & 12), call 250-415-3475.

A similar program was offered last fall during the rainy season. **WSV**

DEALING WITH THE WEATHER

Family Day weekend ferry return trips

West Shore Voice News

BC FAMILY DAY: Mon Feb 13

● Expecting heavy traffic between Vancouver Island and Metro Vancouver on BC Family Day long weekend, BC Ferries has added more sailings during peak travel times on their busiest routes during February 10 to 13. Here are the return trips:

>> **Tsawwassen – Swartz Bay:**
 Depart Tsawwassen

Sun Feb 12 – 2 pm and 6 pm
 Mon Feb 13 – 10 am, 2 pm 6 pm

Depart Swartz Bay

Sun Feb 12 – 4 pm depart
 Mon Feb 13 – 12 pm and 4 pm

>> **Departure Bay – Horseshoe Bay:**

Mon Feb 13– 7 pm depart Departure Bay
 Mon Feb 13– 9 pm depart Horseshoe Bay

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Sooke 2032 Idlemore Rd Mon-Sat: 9-4:30 PM Sun: Closed	Langford 1045 Dunford Ave Mon-Sat: 8-4:30 PM Sun: 10-4 PM
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Sports lounge coming to Prestige in Sooke

by Mary P Brooke, West Shore Voice News

[West Shore Voice News](http://www.westshorevoicenews.com)

● The restaurant lounge area in the lobby at the Prestige Oceanfront Resort in Sooke is being transformed into a sports-lounge called Vault, to open in early April.

For the last few years that space has operated on weekends as the Yesaki sushi-bar restaurant.

Other food and beverage venues at the 122-room hotel are the main restaurant with an ocean view, a seasonal coffee outlet in the main lobby, and their private catering department.

Aiming to attract a local crowd, Vault will offer sports on big-screen TVs as "a place to relax with cold beer and some delicious hearty dishes," says the new bar manager, Robin Murdock. [West Shore Voice News](http://www.westshorevoicenews.com)

The Prestige opened in June 2011, before which time Sooke had

no hotel. In the last five-and-half years, the family-owned Prestige hotel chain outlet in Sooke has evolved through various phases of development, including in their first few years being a Best Western Premier hotel by which they established an international clientele. [West Shore Voice News](http://www.westshorevoicenews.com)

For the first five years, the hotel had a financially-supportive relationship with the District of Sooke. But for a segment of the local population, there remains some angst -- mostly over how the style of the hotel exterior doesn't fit a West Coast theme.

A restaurant local loyalty card program was launched in the first few years. Several regional conventions have been held at the hotel over the years, including Sooke Region Chamber of Commerce events.

In the last year or so, the local sports-bar market seems to have been captured by the Route 14 restaurant in the Sooke town core area. **WSV**

Regional Breaking News: www.westshorevoicenews.com